

"The terrorists chose this target hoping to demoralize this country. They failed. Within minutes brave men and women were rescuing their comrades. Within hours, in this building, the planning began for a military response. Within weeks, commands went forth from this place that would clear terrorist camps and caves and liberate a nation. And within one year, this great building has been made whole once again." — President George W. Bush

PHC Johnny Biviera, USN



Andre Hinton holds a flag while 1SG Curtis O'Neal looks on during the observance ceremony at the Pentagon Phoenix Project site.

LINDA SMITH will long remember her co-workers who died in last year's terrorist attack against the Pentagon, but she said she is now ready to move beyond grieving for them, and the survivor's guilt she has experienced during the past year.

Smith, who works for the Office of the Assistant Chief of Staff for Installation Management, was one of about 10,000 military members and federal civilians who marked the Sept. 11 anniversary at a ceremony near the site where the hijacked American Airlines Flight 77 hit the Pentagon.

As promised by President George W. Bush at a memorial service one month after the attack, the destroyed section, known as Wedge One, has been rebuilt in time for the one-year anniversary.

"Many civilian and military personnel have now returned to offices

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they occupied before the attack. The Pentagon is a working building, not a memorial," Bush said. "Yet, the memories of a great tragedy linger here. And for all who knew loss here, life is not the same."

More than 3,000 people died in the Sept. 11 attacks. Including those on Flight 77, 184 victims perished in the Pentagon attack. Department of Defense records show that victims of the combined attacks — on New York's World Trade Center, the Pentagon and Flight 93 that crashed in Pennsylvania — came from more than 80 nations, and from many different races and religions.

Bush said those victims did not die in vain, as their loss has moved a nation to action to defend innocents around the globe.

"The best way to remember the victims is to protect our liberties from those who would take them away," said Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld.

Each of the ceremony speakers echoed the theme, that while life goes

The Pentagon Atta

on for most Americans, our country's military continues to face great challenges in defending freedom around the globe.

"I came to the presidency with respect for all who wear America's uniform," Bush said. "I have great confidence in every man and woman who wears the uniform of the United States of America. I am proud of all who have fought on my orders, and this nation honors all who died in our cause."

Rumsfeld listed several of the successes of the current war on terrorism that resulted from last year's attacks: 2,000 prisoners, many more than 2,000 terrorists killed in Afghanistan, and millions of dollars worth of terrorist funding found and frozen. He pointed out that the United States is not in the war alone. Some 90 nations have joined the coalition against terrorism, representing the greatest coalition in history, he said, as he thanked those partners for their support.

"The terrorists who attacked us have failed miserably — they lost before the first shot was fired," he said. "They failed because they did not achieve their objectives. They wanted Sept. 11 to be a day when innocents died — instead it was a day when heroes were born."

"Even as they wiped

away their tears, Americans unfurled their flags," Rumsfeld said.

And Smith wiped away her tears once again at the remembrance ceremony.

"I needed to be here today to remember those who sacrificed their

all for this great nation of ours," Smith said. "I will always remember that day, but now I can move on while never forgetting. I would give my life today, if that's what was needed for freedom, but it wasn't my time then and it isn't right now." □

PHC Johnny Bivera, USN



President Bush, Secretary Rumsfeld and other dignitaries joined the crowd in singing the National Anthem during the ceremony.

More than 13,000 people attended the service, which remembered those killed a year ago when terrorists crashed a hijacked airliner into the Pentagon.

SSG Marcia Triggs

ck Remembered

Story by Joe Burlas